

UFO COMMENTARY

A Journal of Progressive UFOlogy

Vol.1 No.3

Fall 1970



SIGHTINGS, RESEARCHERS, & INTEGRITY

UFO COMMENTARY
(formerly the UFO Analysis & Research Bulletin)

Vol. 1 No. 3

Fall, 1970

UFO COMMENTARY is published quarterly by Patrick A. Huyghe at 72 Jefferys Drive, Newport News, Virginia 23601. UFO COMMENTARY is available through exchange with other publications or by subscription. Single copy price: 60¢. Subscription: \$2.00 per year or \$4.00 for two years. Make all remittances payable to Patrick A. Huyghe. UFO COMMENTARY is non-profit.

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Preview - In our next issue . . .

"With UFOlogy now in the autumn of its years, a new set of duties is beginning to draw the attention of today's UFOlogist. As he assumes these duties, he becomes UFO historian, taking on the not-so-light responsibility of collecting, evaluating, and interpreting data on past events of the UFO controversy."

So begins Mr. Larry W. Bryant's remarkable article entitled, "Uncle Sam's UFO Literature: An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Material Published Under Aegis of the U. S. Government." And thus introducing a UFO COMMENTARY Special Research Issue. Don't miss it!

Cover Artist: Gladys Huyghe.

EDITORIAL

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ON THE INTEGRITY OF UFO RESEARCHERS

Although I became interested in UFOs during the Michigan flap in 1966, it wasn't until June of 1968 that I became personally involved with UFO reports in my own locality. At that time I didn't consider myself competent enough to personally interview the UFO witness in question. (This, however, would have been rather difficult to accomplish considering that no names were ever reported.) So I did the next best thing and collected every alluring item in the newspaper and on a radio station which covered the entire scene on a "talk show". When it became apparent that reports of UFO sightings had ceased, at least temporarily, I wrote a resume of the activities which was submitted to Saucer Scoop (1) for publication in August 1968. The text of that report is reproduced in its entirety as it was before it was published in Saucer Scoop (2):

01 REPORTS FROM VIRGINIA- Night of June 16, 1968 - At 6:25 pm half of the
02 entire city of Hampton was hit by a power failure which lasted approxi-
03 mately 35 minutes. The Hampton Fire Department received a call from an
04 unidentified woman at about the time the power went off saying she could
05 see smoke nearby. Although fire-fighting equipment was dispatched to
06 the area, no fire was discovered. The spokesman said at that time that
07 the cause for the mass failure was unknown. That same night on a local
08 radio station (WNOR "Hotline" talk program with Chuck Fredrick) a lady
09 in Norfolk reported seeing a UFO before 10:00 pm. The next call was
10 from a boy also in Norfolk who reported that his street was experienc-
11 ing a blackout except for his home!?

12 (AP) July 10, 1968 - An aerial inspection of power lines in Russell
13 County ended with the crash of a single engine aircraft and the death of
14 its two occupants. One man was an employee of a firm which inspects
15 lines for the Appalachian Power Co. No cause of the crash is given.

16 August 2, 1968 - An unidentified Norfolk man tells of his encounter with
17 a UFO that night, on the above mentioned radio station. The report: he
18 was driving when he spotted an orange colored ball flying away high in
19 front of his car. He then saw a flare-like light shoot out from the ob-
20 ject. Then the object disappeared. (How? which object?)

21 August 2,3, 1968 - On these days more UFOs were reportedly seen over the
22 Norfolk skies. On both nights the objects were reported between 9:00pm
23 and 9:30 pm.

. . . continued

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- 1 Saucer Scoop, Editor Joan Whritenour, 6464 34th Ave. No., St. Petersburg, Florida. 33710, is now defunct.
 - 2 Saucer Scoop Vol. 3, No. 7.

editorial continued...

24 August 5,6, 1968 - Various types of reports came in on these two days
25 from the radio station. Some said they were helium filled ballons with
26 flares attached, but the following report could not be attributed t o
27 this. A lady reported a blinking red light that "just appeared" which
28 seemed to explode (explosion size of the moon) and then continued t o
29 flash on and off again. No less than twenty people reported these ob-
30 jects each night.

31 One especially strange call came in on the 6th, from a lady in Norfolk
32 who reported that her 11:00 pm o'clock flight from the Norfolk airport
33 was canceled until 4:00 am the next morning because of an air search be-
34 ing conducted on reported UFOs. The flights were canceled but the air-
35 line now says it was because the plane could not leave New York. T h e
36 latter is probably true, but do you think any airline would tell y o u
37 that one of its flights was canceled because of UFOs? Probably not,for
38 a long time anyway.

39 August, 1968 - Rep. Thomas N. Downing of Newport News, the Virginia Con-
40 gressman, a member of the House Space Committee, had a rough jolt when
41 the hearings on UFOs was held during the first week of August. Downing
42 said: "We used to kind of laugh these things off, but I guess we can't
43 anymore." The testimony of experts (Dr. Hynek, Dr. James E. McDonald,
44 etc.) seemed to shake Downing's reserve. Downing isn't laughing any-
45 more. (Daily Press, August 4, 1968)

However, when this report appeared in Saucer Scoop several items were miss-
ing:

- 1) the sentence in lines 03 through 05.
- 2) "(AP)" in line 12.
- 3) "(Hcw? which object?)" in line 20.
- 4) "2" in line 21.
- 5) "Some said they were helium filled ballons with flares attached, but the following report could not be attributed to this." in lines 25 through 27.
- 6) the sentence in lines 37 through 38.
- 7) the sentence in lines 43 through 45.

Although the omission of the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, and 7th (and possibly the 1st a n d 4th) can be considered Mrs. Whritenour's right as editor, the 5th item should never have been left out.

I was greatly disturbed when I began to mull over the consequences of such "fudging" in UFOlogy. If it happens now, it had probably happened before, and would probably continue to occur. It did.

When I read George Fawcett's "1968 Worldwide UFO Roundup" in the April, 1969 issue of Flying Saucers (3), I found a mention of the Norfolk sighting. This time however, the compiler of the article took the sighting completely out-of-context.

. . . continued

editorial continued...

Below is the way it appeared in its entirety:

August 6 - Norfolk, Virginia -
PLANE FLIGHTS CANCELLED - A
lady in Norfolk called the radio sta-
tion to report that her 11:00 p.m.
flight from the Norfolk airport was
cancelled until 4:00 a.m. the next
morning because of an air search
being conducted in the area on re-
ported UFOs.

In my original report considerable doubts were placed on the Norfolk sightings. In the Saucer Scoop article the sighting became more "creditable" by leaving out the key phrase, "Some said they were helium filled balloons with flares attached..." Then in Mr. Fawcett's article the sighting becomes a real horror story with plane flights cancelled because of UFOs with no other possibility for the cancellation even mentioned. Moreover, no source for the report was given. I am condemning the way in which parts of my report were unjustifiably omitted and where its condensation led to a total distortion of the original.

This episode almost caused me to drop out of the field in total disgust. So I am not proud to publish this editorial, as I am condemning the reporting of some very good friends. And of course, this certainly doesn't lend any more credibility to the UFO field. Since we are depending on the honesty of the UFO witnesses, how can the evidence be valid if the researchers who collect and publish the reports are not honest. I hope this will have served to prove a point which shouldn't have to be discussed. If you can't (or won't) tell it as it is, then please shut up!

-- Patrick A. Huyghe

POSTSCRIPT The above editorial was circulated to the persons concerned therein for their comments. Mrs. Whritenour did not reply. Mr. Fawcett's reply is as follows: "Your criticism reflects, not so much lack of integrity, or hidden motives, but time limitations and the reliability of individual UFO information and in this case space limitations. You were writing a weekly resume, Joan Whritenour a monthly summary and myself a yearly report, so that we each suffered from space limitations needed to tell the true story. I agree that your editorial will make a good one and I welcome it, since it is similar to what happened to me and is mentioned in the Colorado Condon Committee Report of another similar incident that occurred regarding a Colorado report. Many scientists are beginning to believe that we underrate eyewitness reports in our sophisticated age too often. First hand we should have checked the lady's report from Norfolk first hand and I hope you checked with the airline first hand for your information too! I enjoy your approach to UFO truth and welcome hearing from you."



Followup

On sightings over Tobacco Row Mountain in Virginia

by Henry Martin

MYSTERY OF GLOW PARTLY SOLVED

Believed Galvanized Roof

The mystery of the glowing light in the southeast foothills of Tobacco Row Mountain has been partially solved. More than two dozen persons were spellbound, staring from the Hicks Store area at the glow against a mountain at Wares Gap for almost half an hour Sunday night until a newsman finally decided to cast the beam of a powerful spotlight on it to reveal the galvanized roof of an old barn in a heavily wooded area. It seems that moonshine, not the kind that some people had accused "glow" witnesses of being associated with, but lunar light reflecting off the galvanized tin roof of the old log barn had caused the phenomenon seen by almost a hundred people who had flocked to the area since the light was first seen Friday night.

However, this still doesn't explain what C. T. "Charlie" Mayberry, who lives at the site off Rt. 643, said he first saw at about 9:30 p.m. Friday. Mayberry said that a "glowing cloud, so bright that it lit up the front of the house and the driveway just like daylight" had been there when he arrived home. He said it floated past his house, up his field and then up the mountain.

Nor does it explain the hovering glow that Pete Rucker, a nearby resident, said he shot at Saturday night after watching it appear over a nearby Cherokee Indian burial ground. He said the "glowing cloud" moved from the burial ground area to the north and went up the side of the mountain, settling in an area that he said was not in the same location as the barn roof.

Nor does it explain the light that Billy Rucker, Pete's uncle, had followed up the mountain, past the barn, after being summoned by Mayberry Friday night.

But the shiny barn roof was what the newsman saw then and which again Sunday night provided the glow that persons there said at times was "getting bigger . . . getting smaller . . . coming closer . . . going up the mountain . . ." and a variety of other things until the glow's real source was revealed.

One other thing the barn roof doesn't explain is the "bright light up on the mountain" that Buck Caldwell, who lived at the old Peters home there until six years ago, said he saw about 18 years ago. "It was real bright and funny looking," Caldwell said. "We thought that maybe a plane had crashed and we were fixing to get

. . . continued

Virginia sightings continued . . .

flashlights and go see what it was when it went away," he added.

Later Sunday night a second set of witnesses were there with one of them commenting to his friend: "I hear the real light doesn't show up until about 1:30 (a.m.). Are we going to wait that long?"

The "real light" never did show up.

(Source: Lynchburg Daily Advance, June 8, 1970. Credit: R. E. Ricketts.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our correspondent sent us her remarks: "I want to find out more about the Cherokee Indian burial ground. It is a rather unique situation, as there is a small group of people living scattered around the mountain known locally as "issues". They are the remnants of a local Indian tribe supposedly mixed with French trappers and more recently Negro. Anyhow, they are generally very superstitious and many believe the old burial ground is haunted. I intend to find out if these lights have been seen before, when, by whom, etc." I am most grateful for Mrs. Ricketts's fine assistance in investigating this case, and I only wish more readers would participate actively either by investigating cases in their own area and sending clippings from their local newspapers or by commenting on various aspects of the magazine.]

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WATER MYSTERY SOLVED

Friday I was sailing in the James River near the James River Bridge. I was sailing toward what I thought was a buoy. It was ~~black and white~~ conical shaped and as I moved toward it in my sailfish, I realized that the object was moving also, towards me. Not only was it moving, it was moving faster than my boat and it wasn't making any noise at all. It didn't even have a propelled sound; it was just moving along, very eerie. I moved in very close to it. It was quite large, perhaps 3½ to 4 feet from the water. It had written on the side the letter J and the number 2. Could you please tell me what it was? -D.M.

Your mystery is solved. The Portsmouth U.S. Coast Guard says it was a fish net stake buoy used to mark fishing areas in the James River. It is chartered to lay above the James River Bridge and apparently it had drifted from its mark. The movement you saw was probably the drift carrying it along. The Corps of Engineers for the bridge has been notified and will place the buoy in its proper position.

(Source: "Question Line" in The Times Herald, Newport News, Virginia, July 24, 1970)

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UNCONFIRMED REPORT

An old lady waiting at a bus stop in Hampton, Virginia saw a UFO on the week of 3 - 9 May, 1970. This sighting was mentioned on a radio talk show and reported to the editor through a listener.

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UFO OVER CALIFORNIA DESERT

by Allen Benz

James W. Lemley is the manager of an Earl Scheib auto paint shop in San Diego, California. At the time of the sighting he had a student pilot's license and had clocked 500 hours flying time.

Lemley took off from Gillespie Field in El Cajon, California, a suburb of San Diego, at 3:20 P.M. on November 26, 1967. He was cruising along at 140 mph. The sky was cloudy. Lemley then climbed above the clouds. Here the visibility was "three miles by six miles." At approximately 4500 feet the witness sighted an unidentified flying object hovering off the right wing of his plane.

Lemley described the UFO as being reddish-orange, glowing, and shaped "like a bell that had been cut off." He said that from his vantage point it was apparently thirty to forty feet in diameter and ten to twenty feet in height. The object was sharply outlined against the sky and very bright. Lemley compared it to the brightness of an infrared lamp. He said it did not give off smoke, leave a visible trail, drop anything or change shape. He could not see any markings or portholes of any kind on the object. Neither did he hear any sound or experience any turbulence.

The UFO stayed at the 4500 foot altitude for two to three minutes and then pulled away to the East. As it pulled away the object went up to "at least 7000 feet," Lemley then followed it and also climbed to 7000 feet. He said that there was no interference with his radio equipment. During the sighting, Lemley did not watch his dials or gauges so he could not say if they were affected by the object.

The object, after approximately three minutes at the 7000 foot altitude, suddenly sped away toward El Centro, a desert town of some 20,000 people twenty five miles to the East. Lemley estimated that the UFO was traveling at, at least, 800 mph when it finally disappeared, as compared with the 140-160 mph during the course of the observation.

There are several interesting aspects to this case. First, approximately twenty air miles west of the area where the object was sighted there is a large Air Force radar station, located atop Mt. Laguna. Second, the Salton Sea is twenty three miles north of the sighting area. Third, the All American Canal is within the immediate area.

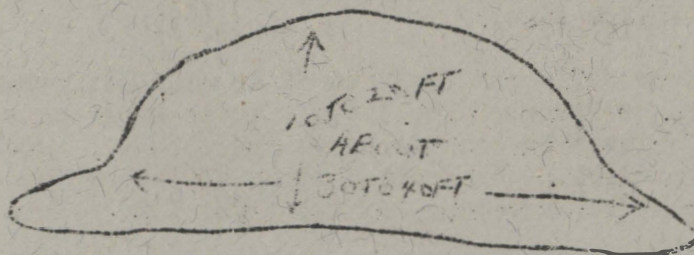
Lemley, at one point, got within 600 yards of the UFO and was, therefore able to give a detailed description of the object. When asked what he thought he had seen, Lemley said: "It was either a secret Air Force experimental craft or an object from outer space. It was definitely real. I wasn't having a hallucination!"

(see sketch drawn by witness and map on next page)

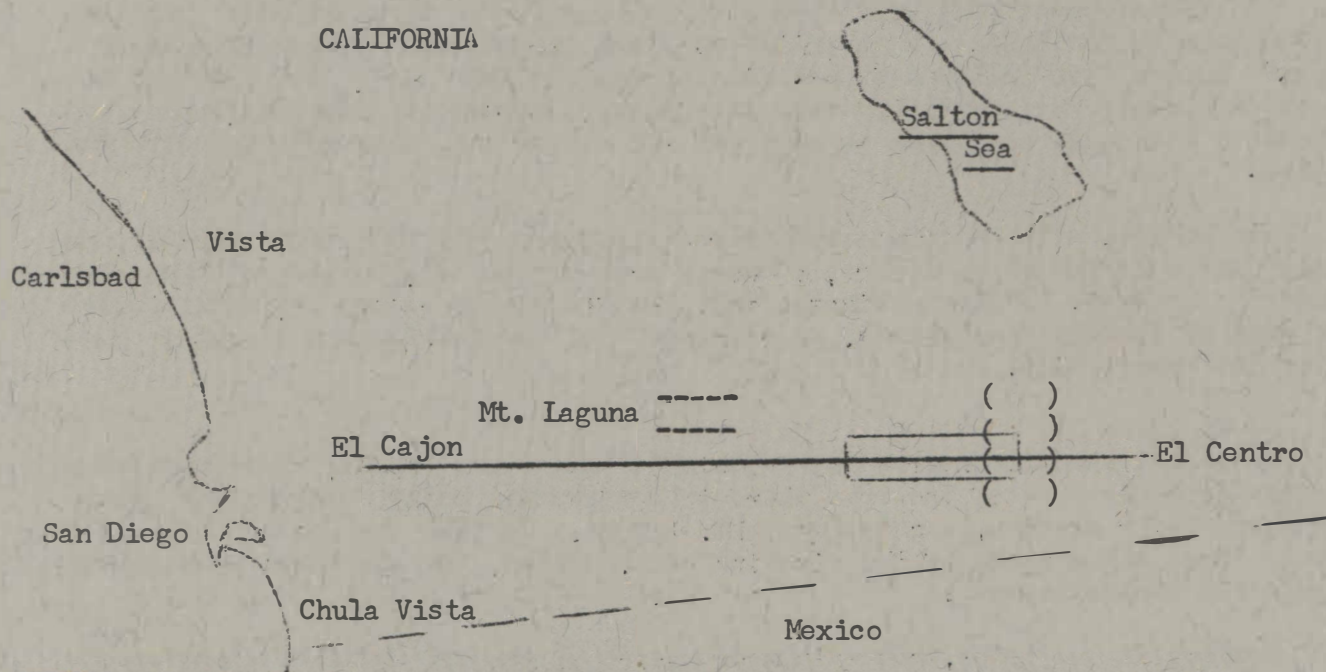
THE LEMLEY SIGHTING

Outline of object

Drawn by witness



MAP SHOWING WITNESS' FLIGHT PATH AND TERRAIN



Lemley's flight path

Area in which UFO was seen

USAF radar station at Mt. Laguna

Salton Sea - Salton Sea

All American Canal - ()
()

The Great Flying Machine Hoax!

By STEVE LIBBY

The Page One Extra Edition of the New York Sun for April 13, 1844, dated "10 o'clock a.m.", is a collector's item from exactly 125 years ago. The American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Mass., for example, has one — and there are a few more in existence in library archives, in the hands of private collectors, and so on.

They're rare, because they represent mute evidence of perhaps the greatest newspaper hoax of all time. Furthermore, directly involved is one of the most important American literary figures in the history of our land, whose wild imagination was to earn him fame as one of the great writers of all time.

In blatant, 12-deck headlines, the front-page story told in vivid detail of hazardous adventure, written with the full fervor of an inspired writer. What the casual reader could not know at the time was that the writer was undergoing severe financial reversals caused primarily by the grave illness of his wife.

"Astounding News!" blared the headline. "The Atlantic Crossed in Three Days! Signal Triumph of Mr. Monck Mason's Flying Machine!!!"

Remember, this was in 1844 — 125 years ago.

"Arrival at Sullivan's Island, near Charleston, S.C., of Mr. Mason, Mr. Robert Holland, Mr. Henson, Mr. Harison Ainsworth, and four others, in the Steering Balloon 'Victoria', after a passage of seventy-five hours from land to land. Full Particulars of the Voyage!!!"

What followed, for nearly five full newspaper columns, was a story detailing the saga of the ellipsoid balloon, 13 feet six inches long and six feet eight inches wide, and its eight passengers. The machine and its apparatus weighed only 17 pounds but "It is of vast dimensions," the story said, "containing more than 40,000 feet of gas."

Its supposedly well-known passengers were described in detail and the article included a sketch of the craft ostensibly drawn

earlier by the eminent lighter-than-air expert Mr. Monck Mason himself.

Mason, an Irish artist and writer, had described his projected dirigible to the newspapers of the world some weeks before.

The story told of the voyage, beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 7 in Britain, terminated safely — though with many a hazard encountered during the crossing! — at 2:00 p.m. Monday, April 9 on the coast of South Carolina. The newspaper report is written with direct quotes from Mason and his associate, Harrison Ainsworth. All the "facts" and figures were written in a most authoritative fashion, and the word quickly spread across a waiting nation.

The Publisher of the New York Sun instructed that no stone be left unturned to secure, as quickly as possible, even more details about the historic event in the annals of aviation. But the following day it was learned that no balloon had landed in South Carolina or, as far as the editor could determine, anywhere else.

On Monday morning the Sun ran a sober disclaimer: "The mails from the South last Saturday night not having brought confirmation of the arrival of the balloon from England, we are inclined to believe the intelligence is erroneous."

The publisher was furious. Calling the editor into his office, he was advised that the story had been obtained from a young journalist who said he had received his information from a source in South Carolina. When faced with the facts, the young writer confessed that the entire story was only a figment of his rather fertile and vivid imagination.

The editor received a strict reprimand from his publisher for not verifying the story before publication, and gave instructions that the young author be banned for all time from publication in the New York Sun.

"By the way," said the publisher, "who is the idiot who wrote the story?"

"Man named Poe," the editor said. "Edgar Allan Poe."

**REPRINTED
FROM**

THE DAILY PRESS,

Newport News-Hampton, Va., Sunday, April 30, 1909

**SUN OFFICE
April 13, 10 o'clock A. M.**

ASTOUNDING NEWS!

BY EXPRESS VIA NORFOLK:

**THE
ATLANTIC CROSSED
IN
THREE DAYS!**

**SIGNAL TRIUMPH
OF
MR. MONCK MASON'S
FLYING
MACHINE!!!**

**Arrival at Sullivan's Island,
near Charleston, S. C., of
Mr. Mason, Mr. Robert Hol-
land, Mr. Henson, Mr. Har-
rison Ainsworth, and four
others, in the**

**STEERING BALLOON
"VICTORIA,"**

**AFTER A PASSAGE OF
SEVENTY-FIVE HOURS
FROM LAND TO LAND**

**FULL PARTICULARS
OF THE**

VOYAGE!!!

A THEORY ON UFO OPERATION

Frank Mobley

All matter is made up of protons, electrons, neutrons, etc. Now science states that these particles are small charges of energy. That means that any material substance, for all it appears solid, is really only one form of energy or another, or a mixture. Energy may be transmitted over wires, as electricity, through the air and vacuum of space, as electro-magnetic radiation, and can be reflected, refracted, and generally have its course altered without harm to itself other than maybe a change in polarization. Energy may be speeded up or slowed down as evidenced in refraction; it can also be converted into different sorts of energy: mechanical to electrical, electrical to heat, heat back to electrical etc. Matter can also be converted into different energies, coal and oil into heat and further, into motion or velocity. Energy may be controlled by other energies or move through other energy, both with and without being changed in itself, dependant upon circumstance and conditions. Energy may travel up to the speed of light, and quite possibly beyond even that. At one time the speed of sound was thought to be the ultimate by man as that was the only "fast moving" thing he could measure, then came advances in science and with it means of measuring the speed of light, so that was thought to be the ultimate. But need this necessarily be so?

Now, if energy can travel at tremendous speed, can be controlled as to speed and direction, and matter is nothing but energy in a different form, why cannot a more advanced intelligence be able to move matter at speeds and with the maneuverability that we now attribute to light or radio waves?

UFOs are very agile in their movements and it has been said that life such as we know it, could not endure the sudden acceleration or the rapid change of direction that they have been seen to make. Now again, if matter is treated as energy and not the solid stuff we think of it as, where is the problem? Science can easily control energy to simulate the actions of "flying saucers". Is it that we are too accustomed to think of things as we see them and not as they really are? How many experiments have been carried out where matter was treated as energy, rather than what we think it is? Do we need a new line of thought, a viewpoint "break-through" before we can make progress in this line?

It may be that if we took a more serious view of some of the so-called supernatural phenomena that we could learn a little more of the natural. Poltergeists are acknowledged in adolescent female proximity, but no scientific concrete evidence has come to light in this respect. But be that as it may, objects have moved, or are being moved, by some unseen energy. If it be true that adolescent females do, unconsciously, move these objects, the energy expended by them must be very little as "brain waves" as detected by the encephalograph are very minute. These waves would have to radiate and would, presumably, be diminished inversely as the square of the distance, as are known radiations. This would seem to indicate that solid objects, as we know them, can be moved from place to place with considerably less energy than we are expending now doing it in a physical manner. Either physical force is very inefficient or the energy, in the case of a poltergeist, is simply acting as a catalyst. Now, if the same principles we applied on a greater scale to a larger object, it would seem to be possible to move something the size of a UFO with the expenditure of very little energy. Unfortunately, science is very limited in its viewpoint. If a thing cannot

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+ FACT OR FOLKLORE ? +

+ By Dan Butcher +

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The story is told how, sometime during the last century, a village schoolmaster encountered a strange phenomenon near Tring, in Hertfordshire. Returning home one night by horse and trap, he approached the spot where a gibbet once stood beside the road, a sinister locality reputed to be haunted by a Black Dog. At that moment he described on the roadside "a flame of fire as large as a man's hat." His horse drew up, trembling, and would not go on. The schoolmaster then saw that there was an immense black dog with eyes like balls of fire, and huge teeth, lying on the road just in front of it. The dog opened its mouth and seemed to grin at the schoolmaster, but after a few moments it seemed to sink into the ground, and the trap was driven over the place where it had been. (See Patricia Dale-Green's DOG, Rupert Hart-Davies, 1966).

This story must be compared with a South African UFO report of 1963, in which two men driving along a road in the Vereeniging district, were said to have returned to investigate a dog "as big as a buck" which they had seen on the roadside. When they reached the spot where it had been, they were buzzed by a UFO. (Flying Saucer Review, Vol. 10 No. 3).

Another tale on similar lines was recounted by M. Alphonse Ratisbonne, a free thinking French Jew who was converted to Catholicism by his experience in Rome, in 1842. He had idly entered the church of San Andrea delle Frati to while away the time when he suddenly saw a black dog trotting and turning on the floor in front of him. In an instant the dog disappeared and the whole church seemed to vanish. He no longer saw anything but what he took to be a vision of the Virgin Mary. (William James, Varieties of Religious Experience, pp. 219-221). We are not told the details of this vision, but we might recall the UFO-like phenomena attending the visions of the Virgin Mary at Fatima in 1917.

THE REFERENCE BOOK OF UFO SOUNDS

by Dan Butcher is unique. This 36-page quarto publication is packed with references and is now available at 3s or 60¢ from the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena. Their journal, PEGASUS, is bimonthly and is available for only 15s or \$3.00 per year. Write to : 23 Coatham Place, Cranleigh, Surrey, England.

QUOTE WORTH REQUESTING:

"Remember . . . Empty Venusian Vessels make the most noise!"- Gerald Lovell

THE MIDWEST UFO CONFERENCE

by Allen Benz

The Midwest UFO Conference sponsored by the Aerial Phenomena Club of Central Illinois and the Tri-State UFO Study Group was held at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, on June 13.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chairman of the Astronomy Department at Northwestern University and Director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center said UFO researchers will have to continue their work through their own sweat and using their own funds.

Hynek noted that the Air Force abandoned its UFO project in January, 1969 after the completion of the Condon Report.

He told the Conference that the UFO phenomenon is worthy of investigation, and that in spite of Condon people are still reporting UFOs. "The fact is they do exist," Hynek said. When people take time to look into the UFO problem they are becoming intellectually bothered by it.

The former Air Force consultant said that researchers must specialize in various aspects of UFO research, such as "nocturnal sightings, daylight sightings and physical effects on people and animals. Progress in UFO research will be made by dedicated individuals specializing in one area."

Mrs. Coral E. Lorenzen, Secretary and former director of APRO, said that there is now tangible, physical proof that at least one UFO was a manufactured vehicle of nonterrestrial origin!

Mrs. Lorenzen related the results of a series of exhaustive tests conducted by Dr. Walter W. Walker, Associate Professor of Metallurgical Engineering at the University of Arizona. Dr. Walker tested the controversial and much tested Ubatuba magnesium sample. Walker's results show that the metal is a directionally grained casting, instead of random grained as is the normal procedure. The significance of this, Mrs. Lorenzen explained, is that, even today, in 1970, metallurgists are just beginning to experiment with the idea of directionally grained castings, let alone construct aircraft via this method.

In ordinary metal the grains are spread around in a random manner; however, in directionally grained metal the grains are arranged in a specific manner which will considerably strengthen the metal. Magnesium, when directionally cast, Mrs. Lorenzen said, is an excellent material to construct aircraft from. It was, far, far beyond the ability of any terrestrial nation to produce this type of metal in 1957, and for the most part, it still is today.

. . . continued

Midwest Conference continued. . .

Earlier in the day, Dr. Allen R. Utke, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Wisconsin State University at Oshkosh, lectured on UFOs and the problem of scientific evidence.

Utke said that instead of welcoming the unknown, scientists have become defenders of the Establishment. For the last 300 years, Utke said, Science has generally been right. As a result, the general populace has come to look upon the scientists with awe and reverence. When a white robed scientist makes some pronouncement for the general public, he may not be understood, but he is certain to be believed. Scientists are looked upon as exalted beings, Utke continued, for they have the formula "It has been scientifically proved..." which is supposed to squelch any disagreement.

Ted Phillips, of the Missouri Highway Department, followed Dr. Utke's address. Mr. Phillips, using slides, spoke on the significance of burned circles and saucer nests. He stated that there have been well over 100 cases of circular areas of vegetation being destroyed during a saucer landing. The importance of this, he said, is that these areas can be examined. They are tangible evidence.

After lunch, Mr. John F. Schuessler, a senior design engineer for McDonnell-Douglas Corporation, in St. Louis, discussed propulsion systems of UFOs. Working with the United States space program, he said "as we look around us we see something outperforming us in every way - the UFO. It's high time we spent the money, time and energy to find new ways to power space craft..."

All in all the Conference was a big success. The largest session drew over 160 people causing the Conference to be moved to a larger hall. Press coverage was very good also. The local media went all out to cover the event. The UPI sent a reporter to cover the various sessions and also interviewed several speakers, by phone, from Chicago.

A THEORY ON UFO OPERATION continued from page 13

be measured, weighted, dissected, x-rayed, or detected with the limited amount of instruments at its disposal, it just can't exist. Before we had voltmeters, ammeters, wattmeters, etc. and were not able to generate or control electricity, people would look upon a simple demonstration of an electric light bulb much the same as most scientists look upon UFOs now, "We can't explain it so it does not exist."

[Editor's Note: In his letter to me Mr. Mobley made further comments: "One flying saucer I saw had no visible means of propulsion, did not disturb the water just a few feet below it and made no sound. It could not have used any man made power source that is in use at the present. Let's get out of this mental rut and start thinking a little more of the "natural" things around us, we could learn a lot."]

DISCOVERIES FURTHERING THE FEASIBILITY
OF INTERPLANETARY SPACE FLIGHTS

On Storing Food for Long Duration Flights

Space Scientists are turning human breath into food. They hope the food will sustain astronauts during voyages of two years and more.

The process was described at the recent national meeting of the American Chemical Society. It begins with carbon dioxide, the exhaled component of human breath.

Carbon dioxide is converted to the marsh gas, methane. A byproduct is water for astronauts to drink. The methane is converted into formaldehyde, which is converted into nutritional sugars.

A relatively simple apparatus for these conversions has been made at the National Aeronautic and Space Administration's research center at Moffett Field, Calif. It is making these sugars at the rate of 750 grams per hour, Dr. Jacob Shapira, who is in charge, said.

The apparatus requires no raw materials aside from the exhaled human breath which chemically is a metabolic waste, and little energy aside from heat. The process still is highly experimental.

In rats these "pure nutrients" which are fed as a powder are "well tolerated as a large fraction of the diet," Shapira reported.

Theoretically, it is said, 90 per cent of the diet could be composed of a small number of "regenerated pure nutrients derived from waste products of the metabolism." The remaining 10 per cent, Shapira said, would be made up of proteins, vitamins and essential fats stored in the space vehicle.

"These pure nutrients may have application in the future toward solution of the world food problem," Shapira said. "But exhaustive testing of chemical foods will be necessary to establish the safety and nutritional desirability.

"Their first use is likely to come under unusual conditions such as space flight. However, when sufficient natural food is not available, the general public may also accept these pure nutrients."

(Source: New York (UPI). Credit: Benz)

On the Possibility of Suspended Animation

Russian scientists have brought two prehistoric tritons - vertebrates resembling lizards - back to life. They lay frozen solid for 5,000 years in Siberia, Moscow radio said today.

The story of the tritons, the broadcast said, suggest that space travelers might be put in a sort of deep freeze to make long journeys without the encumbrance of huge amounts of supplies.

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The 7th Annual Congress of Scientific UFOlogists hosted by the American Flying Saucer Investigating Committee was held at the Columbus Center of Science and Industry in Ohio on June 26-28.

The closed sessions held on Friday could more aptly be named the business sessions where little action was taken on any kind of constructive measure. Research reports presented by members of the Congress proved that little or no research was actually being conducted. There were however a few items worthy of note: the adoption of the UFO Filter Center and the E.D.I.S. (Erhardt Data Index System) as official Congress functions. May I here present my thanks to the Congress for acknowledging the UFO Analysis and Research Bulletin's Special Issue: A Report of Over 1000 Worldwide 1968 UFO Sightings.

Saturday was a day of general discussion of research methods and speculation on UFO origin as well as on a host of other UFO related material.

On Sunday talks were given to a very low public turnout by various members of the Congress.

It is my recommendation that the business sessions be cut out almost entirely; that discussion of private opinions be relegated solely to the hotel room; that the open sessions be totally eliminated; and that the members of the Congress be reminded what exactly they are supposed to be doing. It is also my opinion that all serious UFO groups (or individuals) big and small attend the yearly conventions. When this is accomplished, then possibly something constructive might be done.

At this time, the Congress's only redeeming value is its existence.

(On the Possibility of Suspended Animation continued from page 17)

The broadcast gave this account:

"Some time ago Soviet geologists found something resembling a lizard at a depth of about 25 feet in the frozen ground of northern Siberia. It revived after being kept at room temperature for some time. Scientists finally classified it as a four-toed triton, one of the oldest and most primitive orders of tailed amphibia that inhabited the earth in the Mesozoic era (the dinosaur age). Judging by the state of the earth in which it was found, biologists concluded that the triton had been asleep for about 5,000 years. On awakening the creature behaved exactly as it had thousands of years ago. It ran around, ate and slept. It was not afraid of people, willingly eating wild berries, flies and mosquitoes out of their hands. It died after three weeks. Another triton was found frozen about 13 feet underground. This one also revived and lived practically all summer."

(Source: The Daily Press, St. Marys, Pa. Feb. 26, 1963. Credit: Herbstritt.)

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BOOK REVIEWS

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Chariots of the Gods
by Erich Von Daniken

G. P. Putnam's Sons, N.Y.
189 pp., Bibliography, Index, \$5.95.

Books on the supernatural, astrology, and other facets of the occult have been "in" socially speaking for some time now. Psychologically they provide a new agent of hope besides religion. The popularity, as indicated by its long stay on the Best Seller list, of Erich Von Daniken's intriguing tale of unsolved mysteries has apparently struck the public at the proper time and in the proper way.

His theory that "astronauts" from the stars descended to earth, and ~~trans-~~mitted their knowledge to men is built almost entirely on an analogy. The analogy can best be described by an example: "If our own space travelers happen to meet primitive peoples on a planet one day, they too will presumably seem like 'sons of heaven' or 'gods'."

He draws the evidence for his theory from archeological oddities from the past and from "...awkward spots in which scribes, translators, and copyists could have had no idea of the sciences and their products." I have the feeling that this may also be true of Von Daniken. Some archeological oddities which he quotes as evidence have been satisfactorily explained in professional archeological texts. His ideas about the meaning and significance of mummification, for example, are inaccurate.

Although this book has introduced the ignoring public to some truly "unsolved" mysteries, it is a pity that more accurate books on related subjects rarely become best sellers. Von Daniken spots the major weakness of his book when he states; "This book puts forward a hypothesis made up of many speculations, therefore the hypothesis must not be 'true'." -- PAH.

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The Silver Bridge
by Gray Barker

Saucerian Books, Clarksburg, W. Va.
151 pp., \$9.95.

Gray Barker has published numerous books on UFOs and its allied interests by various authors including himself under the title company of Saucerian Books. This book is quite unlike its predecessors however, in that the writer admits the use of fictional elements. It is through the use of these fictional elements that the Woodrow Derenberger contactee claim, the Mothman sighting, other UFO sightings, the collapse of the Point Pleasant, W. Va. "Silver Bridge" and other "real" events are presented to the reader in an extremely readable and enjoyable fashion.

The story itself builds to the climatic collapse of the Silver Bridge where the reader, have been subjected to other surrounding events, is forced to tie everything together. Nevertheless, the fictional elements in the book can be easily distinguished from the factual ones - up to a certain point. The more

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book reviews continued . . .

gullible the individual, the latter that point will be.

Nevertheless, Mr. Barker's achievement is literary if not totally factual and can definitely be recommended as one of the top two Saucerian Books available. -- PAH.

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Passport to Magonia
by Jacques Vallee

Henry Regnery Company, Chicago.
372 pp., Appendix, Notes to Chapters,
Index to Appendix, \$6.95.

Reviews of Jacques Vallee's Passport to Magonia have not been extremely favorable but rather critical. The book's own merit may leave room for criticism but what most reviewers have failed to realize is that Mr. Vallee's work, in comparison to most "bullshit" and rehash books which are and have been on the market, is a masterpiece - the product of an artistic if not an analytical mind. As Vallee himself says: "...I entirely forgot that I was a scientist by profession when I began the manuscript of Passport to Magonia."

It is entirely possible that after writing two previous books on the subject, Vallee realized that "science" was not sufficient in trying to solve the problem. He, like Keel, rejects the outer space theory as a complete answer. What Vallee describes as "the functional lie" can be compared to Keel's "cosmic jokers." What is truly remarkable is that both Vallee and Keel have reached approximately the same conclusions, independently!

What does Vallee attempt to say? "Is it reasonable to draw a parallel between religious apparitions, the fairy-faith, the reports of dwarf like beings with supernatural powers, the airship tales in the United States in the last century, and the present stories of UFO landings? I would strongly argue that it is for one single reason: the mechanisms that have generated these various beliefs are identical." Sometimes, however, the parallel doesn't fit too well and Vallee forces it in by words such as "indistinguishable" and "identical".

Nevertheless Vallee's presentation and exposition is superb! He says so much that shouldn't be missed by any student of UFOs. But the same warning must apply to Vallee's book as for Keel's book. Vallee puts it into words thusly: "I have not written this book for such people [people who have all the "answers"] but for those few who have gone through all this and have graduated to a higher, clearer level of perception of the total meaning of that tenuous dream that underlies the many nightmares of human history, for those who have recognized, within themselves and in others, the delicate levers of imagination and will not be afraid to experiment with them."

The second half of the book is made up of an appendix which is a catalog of A Century of UFO Landings (1868-1968). For this also, he has come upon much criticism. But I challenge those critics to do a better job! The only drawback to the catalog is the fact that no analysis of the material is attempted. I relish the possibility that Mr. Vallee has left this task for his critics to labor upon and watch them turn blue, red, green, orange, yellow, white....and land on his side of the fence. -- PAH.

LETTERS

June 21, 1970

"...I delayed some time for sending news to you because (I) was engaged in a great work of doing a world-wide computation of cases in which was observed UFO occupants. This work will be published in the book of our President, Professor Felipe M. Carrion, in the Argentine edition.

"In the last times the movement of UFOs in Brazil is a little poor, happening isolated cases. In last December happened a observation of UFO occupants, little men of bluish color, in the town of Sobral, State of Ceara..."

Jader U. Pereira, GGIOANI.

[Editor's Note: The above mentioned book and Mr. Pereira's work on UFO occupants which is included in the book is highly recommended to our Spanish and Portuguese readers. For more information write Mr. Pereira at Av. Getulio Vargas, 1126, Porto Alegre - R.G.S. - Brazil.]

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June 29, 1970

"I am in receipt of Vol. 1 No. 1, of UFO COMMENTARY, which I greatly enjoyed reading. Your publications seem to go from strength to strength.

Regarding the illustrated cover. I was pleased to note that on page 3, you question "how long it will be before UFOlogy is disintered for a worldwide inquest?"

Personally, I feel that the latest autopsy was far from adequate and one has only to count the number of gravestones: Sign, Grudge, etc., in your picture, in order to feel reassured that although the "body" is currently buried, it will not and has not lain at rest.

Authority has a Frankenstein on its hands, so let's get busy and dig up the bits!"

Gerald (Boris!) Lovell, SWUAPIG.

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July 15, 1970

"You have changed more than the name--UFO COMMENTARY is a better looking, neater magazine to begin with and, more important, the contents have "upped" too. Your editorial in the Summer issue is excellent.

Norma E. Short, SKYLOOK.

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LETTERS

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